



Bob Riley
GOVERNOR

Alabama Department of
REHABILITATION SERVICES



Cary F. Boswell
COMMISSIONER

Tuesday, December 01, 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Kathleen McGehee
334-293-7500 or 1-800-441-7607

Children's Rehabilitation clinic provides one-stop for children with arthritis

MOBILE – Arthritis is often associated with aging, but older adults aren't the only ones who have this often-debilitating condition.

Children also may experience the joint stiffness, pain and inflammation in the form of juvenile rheumatoid arthritis (JRA), the most common type of the disease in young people.

Early diagnosis and treatment give children with JRA the best opportunity for a positive outcome. To ensure this, Children's Rehabilitation Service (CRS) in Mobile conducts the Juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis (JRA) Clinic, bringing together a team of health professionals in one location.

"The benefit of this clinic is the direct specialty treatment we provide," said Gwen Weed, a CRS social worker. "Consumers have access to a multi-disciplinary team. Best of all, they receive all the care they need in one location."

Comprised of doctors, nurses, social workers, a physical therapist, an occupational therapist, and a nutritionist, the clinic meets every other month and is typically busy and well-attended. Forty children are scheduled to attend the office's next JRA clinic, set for Friday, Dec. 4, at 10 a.m.

Leading the clinic are Dr. Richard Jones of the Clinic for Rheumatic Diseases in Tuscaloosa, who specializes in adult rheumatoid arthritis; Dr. Prescott Atkinson, a pediatric immunologist at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) Hospital; and Dr. Peter Weiser, a pediatric rheumatologist at UAB Hospital.

Along with the health professionals, there is also a group of women who volunteer to assist with the JRA Clinic. The group, known as the Arthritis Volunteer Action Committee, provides food and refreshments for families attending the clinic.

The Mobile CRS office is located at 1610 Center St., Suite A.

Children's Rehabilitation Service is a division of the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services, the state agency whose mission is to enable Alabama's children and adults with disabilities to achieve their maximum potential.